



Bickerton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School

What is the pupil premium?

In 2011 the Government introduced the “pupil premium”; this is a sum of money given to schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged children. Research has shown that children from low income families perform less well at school than their peers. The pupil premium is intended to directly benefit the children who are eligible, helping to narrow the gap between them and their classmates. There is no obligation for schools to consult parents about how they use the money they claim; although some schools may involve parents in decisions. However, schools do have to show that they are using their pupil premium fund appropriately. This is measured through Ofsted inspections and annual performance records.

How is it spent?

Schools can choose how to spend their pupil premium money, as they are best placed to identify what would be of most benefit to the children who are eligible. Some ways in which schools spend their pupil premium fund could include:

- Extra one-to-one or small-group support for children within the classroom.
- Employing extra teaching assistants to work with classes.
- Running a school breakfast club.
- Providing music lessons for children whose families would be unable to pay for them.
- Funding educational trips and visits.
- Funding English classes for children who speak another language at home.
- Investing in resources that boost children’s learning, such as laptops or tablets. Often all of the children in a class will gain some benefit from how the school spends its pupil premium: for example, if the money is used to fund an additional teaching assistant who works across the whole class, rather than providing one-to-one support.

How to claim pupil premium for your child

To register for Free School Meals you need to complete an Education Benefit form. You can access this by

- ringing [0300 123 5012](tel:03001235012) or
- visiting https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

If your child qualifies for free school meals, it’s important that you tell their school – even if they take a packed lunch – as this enables them to claim pupil premium.

Pupil Premium Plus

This is for pupils who are currently “Looked After/ Cared For” or have been previously, by the Local Authority, for at least 1 day. Pupils receive either Pupil Premium or Pupil Premium Plus, not both. Pupil Premium Plus is higher to recognise the extra challenges faced by children who are, or have been, Looked After/ Cared For. Like Pupil Premium it aims to help pupils make progress but its focus is on improving social and emotional well-being. For pupils currently in care, the Pupil Premium Plus is managed by Cheshire East’s Virtual School Head. For pupils who have moved from care into adoption, are cared for as part of a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or there is a Child Assessment Order (CAO) in place, the funding goes directly to their schools. Neither the Pupil Premium nor the Pupil Premium Plus are ring fenced to individual children but schools need to be able to demonstrate to parents how the funding is being used to support their child. For Pupil Premium Plus, this means showing how it is helping the child on a social and emotional level.